

Worden Pope to Andrew Jackson, June 19, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WORDEN POPE TO JACKSON.

Louisville, June 19, 1831.

Dear Sir, The greatest duty and task of a *friend* , is to act always, with frankness and sincerity, on all occasions. And in this spirit I assure you, that the Editorial article, in "The Globe", concer[n]ing the Conduct of the Branches of the Bank of the U States at this place, and Lexington, gave me much pain. So far as the Branch *here* is concerned, the charge is *untrue*. In the contest between the old and new Court parties, in Kentucky, I deemed *fundamental principles* to be involved; and therefore I contended for victory in favor of the inviolability of our Appellate Court, from Legislative destruction. It was established by the *Constitution* , and nothing but the people, in convention, could annihilate it. It was a wrong and desperate course taken, to expel the Clay-party from power. The strong holds of the state were in their hands. I am not the man that holds, that the *ends do justify the means*.

I knew that the new court-party at this point of action, had freely employed their *cash* , on the Election. I abhorred the practice, did not intend, in that way to be *beaten*. My friends agreed, that we would beat our adversaries, with *their own dirty stick*. *The money was my own*. No one contributed a cent of it. I waited until the last moment and put my plans into execution. They were compleated at two OClock of the morning of the first day of the Election. Thus, I turned the ambushade of our enemies, upon themselves and our party was successful. *This is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*. I do not know the author upon whose *veracity* , Mr Blair has made the publication. But I can, and do say, that the charge does not exist in fact or truth. There must be, some one *here* , who

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must have some *personal and selfish* purpose to answer, by giving matters of this kind for publication. If I had expected such a publication, as Mr Blairs, I would, in time, to prevent it, have made this *confidential* communication.

It was a subject of regret, to some of *your best friends* , that the renewal of the charter of the present Bank, had a place in your first message. It was believed to be premature; and not then required, to give any *advantage* to your administration. It was calculated to *divide your friends* , and put a powerful weapon into the hands of your enemies. Your *prudent* friends wished to give it the go bye, as a means to ascertain, in seasonable time, the sentiments of the people. It is, at all times, a difficult and delicate subject to handle; and your friends wished it, not to be agitated until after your second election. It cannot be acted upon, officially, by the Government, until the close of your second term. My *confidence* in your purity and patriotism of purpose, remains unshaken, and I feel it to be a high duty on my part, to speak freely to *your own Ear* on public measures, and leave what I say, to pass, for what it is worth. No private or personal considerations, shall induce me to act with duplicity, or to say any thing to you, which I believe to be incorrect. With these assurances I will proceed to say, what I believe to be the public opinion, now about a Bank of the United States; and what will be the force and result of that opinion, when the charter of the present one shall expire.

The subject is presented to me, and your able friends, as far as I can ascertain, thus, 1st, That if there be no Bank of the United States, that state-Banks will be chartered and spring up like mushrooms, and the country will be inundated with *depreciated* Bank notes. 2d That the metallic medium, will not be sufficient, to prevent that result; and is incompetent to supply the wants of an intelligent enterprising and industrious nation. 3d, That the safety of the national revenue requires a Bank of the United States. 4th, That a great majority of the people of the United States, will have such a Bank. 5th That if the Republican party are opposed to the present Bank-charter, let them charter a new Bank, on the following conditions. 1st, That it shall loan its funds for four per cent. 2d, That it shall perform the same services for the Government, which are performed by the present Bank.

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3d, That it shall not deal in or take securities of real estate. 4th That it shall be suable, in the state-courts, without the power of removal into the Federal courts, upon parol as well as agreements evidenced by its corporate seal, and also for torts; and that, service of process, on the president or cashier of a Bank shall be sufficient. 5th, That the president, Directors and all other officers of the corporation, shall be sworn, and certificates thereof registered before they act. 6th, That Congress shall have power at any time to repeal the charter, for a violation of it. 7th, That the District Attorney shall upon complaint, supported by affidavit, and security for costs, for a wrong done, be compelled to prosecute a quo warranto, to *seize the charter*.

It would seem, that a Bank, thus chartered, would disarm it, of all the dangers, apprehended, or now felt, by the republican party; and that the charter of the present Bank, might, on the same terms be renewed with safety. But suppose you set an example, that no Bank shall be continued beyond the termination of its charter. In other words suppose you let the charter of the present Bank expire; and be prepared with another, on the terms aforesaid, containing an express declaration that it shall not be renewed. Let the Government not ask a bonus; and it seems to me, that you can have a Bank, on your own terms, with all “the due guards” that shall be necessary. It would be, emphatically be a *Jackson Bank*.

The Globe is looked upon, as the Official organ of the Administration; and if it does not retract its article, we need not open our mouths. The *people* of the West, are against its contents. It has asserted, upon the information of some *designing* person or persons, what is *positively untrue* ; and the people of the West, who feel the advantages of the Branches will not discuss the *Unconstitu[t]ionality* of the Bank. They will not give due weight to Constitutional law, against that, which they feel to be expedient. A sound currency to an agricultural, manufacturing and commercial people, is as essential as the blood to the human body. The people of the West had rather, fight the British again, *under you* , at

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the batteries at New Orleans, than to be subjected to effigy Banks, and their Bastard depreciated paper!

It is in vain for any one, to attempt, to induce the people to run against a Bank of the United States. Unless a substitute be offered, nine-tenths of the West, will support the present Bank, with all its defects. Those who think differently, do not know the sentiments of the people. If we go against the present Bank, nothing will save us, but a substitute. Without it, we will be beaten and put down. The capitalists of the north, want a new Bank. They will agree to take a charter for twenty years, on the terms which you will dictate. Waive a *bonus* and they will end at four per cent. All men are prepared for a reduction of interest. Every thing has fallen, since 1816, and interest also ought to fall. The threat of such a project has stopt the mouth or nearly so, of our enemies here. But the injudicious, erroneous and ill-timed article of Mr. Blair, is murder to us. I suppose that he *cannot*, give up his informant. I know him not, but depend upon it, he was after *something* for himself. It is in Mr Blairs power to exculpate the Branch here, and he ought to do it. I dictate to no one. My road is open and straight. We are on the eve of an Election, which will settle the fate of the administration, in Kentucky and its result will be felt elsewhere. We have no power to spare. Division will ruin us. Mr Blairs article has fallen like a thunder bolt upon the state. You have felt the effects of *division*, in your late cabinet; and we feel in this state, all the force of selfish interests and purposes. I rely on the *people* for success; and see the danger of our pa[r]tisans. This letter is in the strictest confidence.

I am your political and personal friend